

Tonight at 6:30 pm, join in The World AIDS Day walk

AIDS Awareness launched at The Village last Saturday



PALM BEACH - The AIDS Awareness Village was a designated area to be used for the sole purpose of creating an awareness and education ambience, in which the visitors had the opportunity to interact with members of

our committee and all the foundations and expositors participating that day, and where information was presented in a refreshed way. This approach has never been used in any part of the world (Research made showed no

results), where in the format of a "Family Day", information can be served to children and adults in different areas attractive to their choices. Music, dance, theater, sports, children activities, information booths, visual arts, and others, all of these activities merged on a single arena, and all pointing to same cause.

The main objective of this event is to "raise awareness" in general about the HIV/AIDS in our community. Raising awareness means no other than let the people know that the disease exists, it has been among us for a while (it still is), and emphasize that there is a way to prevent it from spreading.

A branching goal to be attained out of this event is to switch the negative focus which our community uses to approach this topic, demystifying this way the stigma created by previous fears and taboos.

The World AIDS Day Walk will start this evening at 6:30 pm from the Daniel Leo Plaza in Down Town Oranjestad across from Casa Tua Barcelona Restaurant.

Casa Tua will be there serving Paella and soft drinks while famous local singer Jairo Boekhoudt will sing the song: Mr. Blue. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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At the Renaissance Aruba Resort

Teams of the Second & Third quarters, receive certificates of appreciation



ORANJESTAD – The Renaissance Aruba Resorts conducted an informal Team of the Second & Third Quarter appreciation ceremony at the Renaissance Convention Center in honor of associates who excelled in their areas of responsibility during the past six months.

The ceremony was emceed by Queta Werleman of the Department of Human Resources and the honorees were personally congratulated by General Manager Paul Gielen and Assistant General Manager Crystal & Seaport Casinos, Edgard Roos.

Individual recognition notes were made by department heads praising the performance of the Renaissance top employees.

The selection of the Team of the Second Quarter

2009 includes, from the Heart of the House, Jose Ureña, Chef di Partie, Mauricio Catari, Banquet and Edgard Maduro, Engineering.

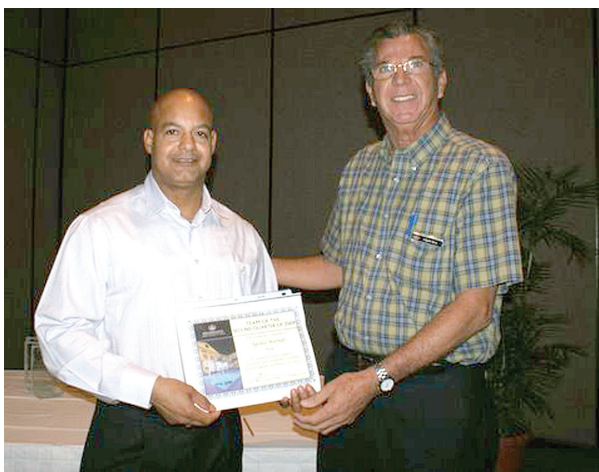
From the Front of the House, Taisha Curiel, Okeanos Spa, Nadia Arrindell, Concierge, Nelson Molina, Security and Leidy Muñoz, Activities, Supervisor Luis Vasquez, Main Kitchen and Manager, Miroushka Statia-Diaz, Accounting.

The selection of the Team of the Second Quarter 2009 from the Casinos includes from the Heart of the House, Tirzane Williams, Marketing & Host, and from Front of the House, Libelle Lopez, Crystal Dealer, Owen Tromp, Seaport Slot Department, Merita Everon, Seaport Dealer, Supervisor, Ruben Diaz, Crystal Floor and Shift Manager Igidio

Wernet.

The selection of the Team of the Third Quarter 2009 includes, from the Heart of the House Emmanuel Merveil, Steward, Roberto Ramirez, General Engineer and Marie Altidor Jeantine, Cook-helper. From the Front of the House, Nathalia de Freitas, F&B Bartender, Gloria Meneces-Huari and Iraida M. Monticeux, both F&B Waitresses and Marianella Cortez, Banquet Waitress, Supervisors Mariska Geerman, Rooms and Juana Martinez, F&B.

The selection of the Team of the Third Quarter 2009 from the Casinos includes from the Front of the House, Ann Jealin Navas, Dealer, Romulo Martinez, Dealer, and Lourdes Agudelo, and Fidel Krozendijk, both casino-floor supervisors. □



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EXPO CAS 2009 "Most Outstanding Booth" announced

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ORANJESTAD - Earlier this week, ArubaRealEstateGuide.com elected the winner of EXPO CAS 2009 most outstanding booth. Votes were collected from all the visitors,

who visited the well known EXPO CAS 2009, which was held in the prestigious Renaissance Convention Center during October 23-24-25, 2009.

Over 10,000 visitors visited the EXPO CAS this year. Everyone had the opportunity to admire and receive a lot of information referring to everything that had to do with either estate buying, renovation or construction. At the booth of ArubaRealEstateGuide.com, visitors had the opportunity to hand in their votes for "Best Booth". Between 81 participating booths, ABJL & Partners received and overall of 30% of the votes, which made them the ultimate winner of "Most Popular". The "Most Beautiful

Booth" went to Kohler/Homenet Real Estate, who had a very imposing as well as beautiful booth. The single prize from ArubaRealEstateGuide.com of AWG 1000,= went to Sra. Mirlanda Bernadina.

It became an intensive task for the jury to choose the most dazzling booth, as all are marvelous and very professional constructed and presented. Congratulations to all the winners! □



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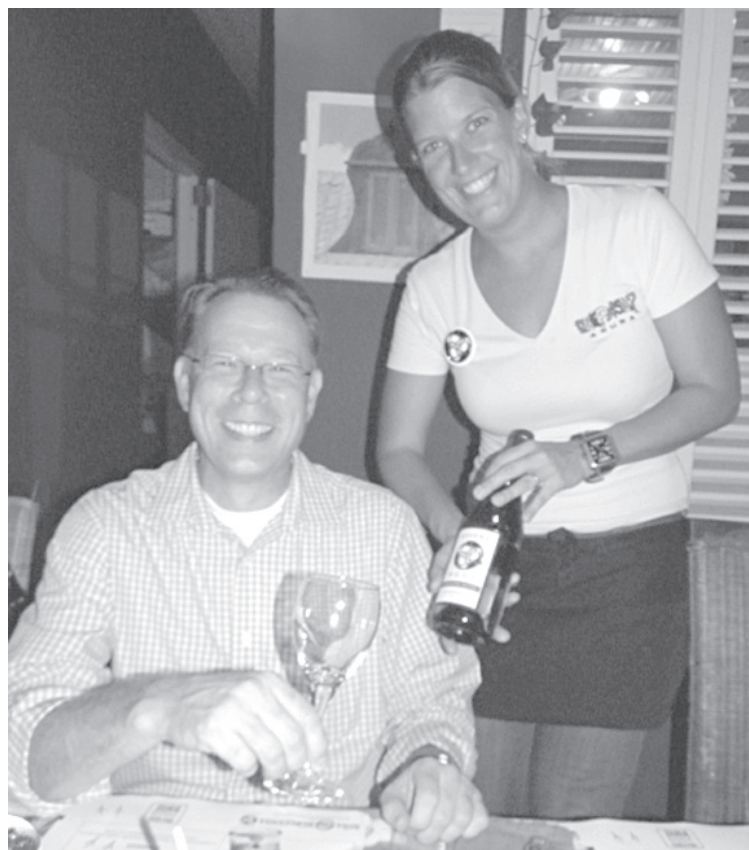
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Delicious dishes for enthusiastic Friends of Arion at Que Pasa



ORANJESTAD-Wonderful Ravenswood wines filled the glasses of the guests of the special Que Pasa/Friends of Arion dinner, which was held this past Friday evening, November

27. Many toasts were made, yet the word 'Wimpy' was not uttered once, we believe. The Ravenswood winery's slogan 'No Wimpy Wines' is catchy, but guests behaved themselves admirably.



Dinner at the popular restaurant in the Wilhelminastrat downtown was fabulous: it started off with an appetizer of goat cheese mousse with a honey glaze, shrimp filled with wahoo and a carpaccio of smoked Black Angus. Delicious! The Ravenswood Vintners blend Merlot went very well with the varied, delicate tastes of the appetizer.



Sirloin steak or grouper was the Main Course choice to which a Ravenswood Vintners blend Chardonnay or a Zinfandel were poured. As the noise level increased and laughter sounded frequently throughout the second floor of Que Pasa Restaurant, dessert was served: a jelly of fruits and sangria, vanilla soup and papaya ice cream. Wow!

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Compliments to the Que Pasa chefs, who cooked up such a wonderful array of truly delicious dishes as well as a heartfelt Happy Birthday to Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company. His birthday was on November 28. Many happy returns, Govert! □



US \$9,000 raised and 175 tested in Scotiabank, AIDS Foundation event

PHILIPSBURG--Some 175 persons in total were tested for HIV/AIDS and US \$9,000 was raised in what has been described as a successful second annual radio-thon organised by St. Maarten AIDS Foundation and Scotiabank on Sunday. The event was geared towards raising funds for the Stronger Together Red Ribbon Campaign and to raise awareness about the pandemic.

The US \$9,000 raised brings the total amount raked in thus far to about US \$20,000, about US \$5,000 less than the US \$25,000 target.

The radio-thon was simulcast by PJD2 and Pearl Radio in Dutch St. Maarten and SOS Radio in French St. Martin. A crew from Island 92 was also on hand.

Leader of Government William Marlin, who yesterday challenged radio listeners and then matched the amount they pledged, will be on the radio again today to help raise additional funds for the campaign.

Scotiabank Country Manager Elie Bendaly said he was confident that the target would be reached by World AIDS Day on Tuesday, December 1, when the Stronger Campaign wraps up. He said the support given by the community in the radio-thon had been fantastic.

St. Maarten AIDS Foundation President Dr. Gerard van Osch said both men and women had turned out to get tested, individually and as couples.

Some 14 teams had competed in the basketball knockout competition held at L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium, where testing centres had also been set

up to encourage youths to get tested. Van Osch said this had also been very successful.

Van Osch credited heightened awareness for the large number of persons who had come out for testing.

"I think people understand that it is important to do an HIV test if you've ever had a risk of becoming infected

with HIV. They know that testing early [is critical], like testing for breast cancer at an early stage, and if you keep yourself healthy, you will stay healthy all your life," he said.

He also credited the Red Campaign for its work in helping create awareness in the community.

Information on HIV and AIDS was provided

throughout the day and free condoms were distributed as efforts were stepped up to raise much-needed funds to fuel the positive work of St. Maarten AIDS Foundation in 2010. More than 100 volunteers assisted in the event.

The Red Ribbon Campaign has raised about US \$100,000 since its inception four years ago. Funds

from the radio-thon will go towards the various programmes executed by the AIDS Foundation, such as its media campaign, commercial sex workers programme, girl power programme and condom distribution campaign. The foundation also hopes to start a boys programme soon. □



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'Tremendo ambiente'

Christmas came to De Suikertuin



ORANJESTAD - The true Christmas atmosphere came to De Suikertuin, the popular restaurant in the Wilhelminastraat last Sunday, when friends and staffers came in to help decorate the lovely old mansion. In just a few hours the place looked absolutely fabulous. Gallons of creative juices had to flow and countless spray cans



of gold had to be emptied before the result was exactly what Gaston and Willeke had wished for.

We can tell you that De Suikertuin's Christmas decorations are stunning! Photos show Willeke, Wikke,

Xandra and Louis in action; a close-up of Inge's hands says more than a thousand words.





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ORANJESTAD - The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating. The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

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day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-ing dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

Early Birds catch the Fresh Catch at Fishes & More

Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in fresh fish and seafood, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to our dishes. Influences from all over the world are found back

on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest

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Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as we have a kids playground and a kids menu to entertain them, so they can enjoy their

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Celebrating 25 years!

December 1st on Aruba

Fundacion E FARO together with Hairdressers commemorate World Aids Day



ORANJESTAD – “E Faro” is a support group for people living with HIV and AIDS and together with Hairdressers on Aruba they will commemorate World Aids Day on Tuesday.

They are inviting everyone on the island to enjoy a free haircut between 6 and 9 PM. Three different locations are participating including: Cache Boutique - Ponton, Knipooog

- Zuidstraat and Hairfashion Boutique - Wilhelminastr. Although the haircut is free, a donation box will be available for those who can financially support the cause.

On December first, the whole world will celebrate World Aids Day.

The theme chosen by the United Nations for this year is ‘Universal Access and Human Rights to emphasize the importance to work towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, recognizing these as fundamental human rights.

The goal is helping switch the negative approach towards HIV/AIDS infected persons, and as a first step, achieve a positive change of attitude in our community where we are able to show compassion, understanding and support. □



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The Sunset Grille is Aruba's premier traditional steakhouse!



Palm Beach – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade USDA -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. The restaurant also features Certified Angus Beef, specialty selected highly marbled USDA and premium never-frozen seafood. While steaks and chops make

up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Hector Espinoza and restaurant Chef Johnny Farro innovated unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Chef Farro is now the dedicated restaurant chef, delivering over 20 years of restaurant experience to the already legendary culinary team. When asked to suggest a

perfect dinner combination, Chef Farro does not hesitate and order the Chop House Martini Salad, with Romaine Lettuce, Hearts of Palm, Sliced Egg, Tomatoes, Blue Cheese, Bacon, Sweet Pepper and creamy Chopin Vodka dressing, served "Shaken not Stirred;" the Lobster Bisque baked with a Crispy Pastry Crust and flavored with a touch of cognac, and the popular Rack of Lamb featuring Four Double Cut Chops, with Mint Pesto, Roasted Tomatoes and Onion Confit.



The latest restaurant's menu revision included the introduction of some interesting dishes such as Tuna Tataki, Sesame Rice Cracker crusted Tuna served rare with Thai Chili and Ginger; Roasted Loin Veal Chop, Apple Chutney, Maple Balsamic Glaze with a Garlic & Spinach Custard and Asia Style Salmon & Scallops, escorted by wakame salad and served over soba noodles. The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and

preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Espinoza explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. Open for dinner from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. every night, indoor and outdoor seating. □

The Coconut Trading Co., is Stocked with Gorgeous Gifts



Palm Beach -- The Coconut Trading Company displays gifts personally selected by owner Jodi Tobman, a Boston native and longtime Aruba

resident, and you are invited to discover extraordinary treasures handcrafted by skilled artisans and colorfully displayed in a beach house

ambiance in the lobby of the Marriott Ocean Club, and at a second just-opened location at the Village on Palm Beach. Every corner of the store attracts the eye with a dazzling assortment of gifts and home accents that command attention; strikingly designed photo frames, candle holders and snuffers, serving pieces to dress every picnic table up and dazzling glass accents: a virtual potpourri of tropical and distinctive gifts to grace any home.

The stores also stock a fine selection of creative sterling jewelry, handcrafted with precious gems, sea glass, turquoise and fresh water pearls, which can be found artfully arranged, beckoning to be worn. Find extraordinary gifts for all of your family members and friends, there's something for everyone on your list, not to forget yourself!

Popular with repeat visitors and locals, The Coconut Trading Co. has become the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices



and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is available, for larger pieces, offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee. The Coconut Trading Co., located in the Marriott Ocean Club lobby. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays until 7 p.m. The Coconut Trading

Company, located at the Village on Palm Beach. Open daily from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com □





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Minister Van der Laan seeks Antillean support

AMSTERDAM--Dutch Minister of Integration Eberhard van der Laan called on the Antillean community in the Netherlands to jointly solve the issue of "its" problematic youngsters during a meeting of Antillean Network Association VAN in Amsterdam Friday evening. He spoke of society's "shared responsibility" and of "solidarity."

"I know the community wants to be addressed and wants to help. The involvement of your community is big," said Van der Laan, whose government is making 4.5 million euros per year available until 2013. The 22 so-called "Antillean" municipalities will match the 4.5 million euros by making available an additional 4.5 million euros annually. Van der Laan said he hoped that by making this appeal to the Antillean community he wouldn't be accused of discrimination, singling out a specific segment of society.

The theme of Friday's gathering was, as Van der Laan put it, the "sad" aspect of young Antilleans causing trouble in Dutch society, more specifically, his recent letter on this issue. He said the problem of youngsters from the

Netherlands Antilles who "go off the road" was almost similar to that of their Moroccan peers.

The Dutch cabinet intends to be tough, but fair, said Van der Laan. "Some youngsters are a problem and have problems, but that is never an excuse to behave in an antisocial manner. You have to keep your hands off other people's property and especially their bodies. This government wants to help. Youngsters who want to be helped receive assistance," he said.

But government can't do it alone and therefore the Minister called on the more than 200 persons attending Friday's VAN gathering to jump in and help. "The question is what we can do together, so I'm appealing to you for help."

He stressed that the vast majority of young Antilleans were doing fine in the Netherlands, studying, working and making something of themselves. However, the minority that don't do well spoil the general image, he said.

Statistics show that Antilleans are doing better in the Netherlands than before. Crime and school drop-out figures have

gone down. Unemployment figures and the number of arrested suspects have also decreased. The fact that the number of persons migrating mainly from Curaçao to the Netherlands has gone down in recent years probably contributes to the more positive statistics.

Even so, crime, school drop-out and unemployment figures are too high, with Antillean youngsters being over-represented when compared to Dutch natives of the same age group. "Things are going better, but there's still a lot to do," said Van der Laan, who praised the work of Antillean organisations and the municipalities.

The Minister also addressed the issue of familiarisation (inburgering) in his speech. He appeared to be in favour of some form of familiarisation course focusing on the Dutch language. "Familiarisation isn't compulsory for Antilleans, but the fact remains that they have a problem with the Dutch language," he said, hoping that the youngsters would take advantage of the opportunities to be offered by municipalities.

Chairman of the Antillean umbrella organisation OCaN Glenn Helberg said he didn't consider Van der Laan's appeal to seek assistance and make the Antillean community co-responsible for the problem of Antillean youngsters discriminatory. But, he added, the effort has to come from both sides. Dutch society should also help and give Antillean children the feeling that they are worth something, he said.

Helberg, co-organisator of Friday's event, said he was also in favour of familiarisation courses for Antilleans. "I, too, think that people have to learn the Dutch language." But, he added, the language issue did relate to a sense of pride and self-worth, and that proper education for Antillean children was important as well.

Helberg asked Van der Laan how government planned to execute its policy in four years so that an Antillean-specific policy would no longer be needed. "We have been addressing this issue for years already," Helberg said there were many Antillean professionals whose expertise could prove useful. □

Various items on promenade constantly moved, vandalised

PHILIPSBURG--Great Bay beach promenade, in all its beauty and success, could use some touching up right about now, says a concerned citizen who took some pictures last week featuring various items on the promenade in a state of disrepair.

The concerned citizen also wanted to know who was responsible for the promenade's maintenance.

Clearly visible were a damaged and rusted garbage bin, overturned benches, damaged electrical panels on every light pole, a cannon off its support structure and pointed in the wrong direction, and benches moved into alleys by persons in Philipsburg who had either mental or drug problems. When contacted for comment, Commissioner in Charge of Public Works Theo Heyliger forwarded the concerns to the Public Works Department, which in turn sought out Clean St. Maarten N.V. for an explanation.

However, The Daily Herald understands that Clean St. Maarten N.V. is responsible only for cleaning of

the promenade – not for the upkeep of the items.

Clean St. Maarten Managing Director Boykie Mendez explained that some of the instances reflected ongoing battles with one person in particular, in Philipsburg. This person, he said, had had many run-ins with the law and with Clean St. Maarten personnel for moving and/or vandalising items on the promenade. He even goes as far as constructing a shelter for himself with benches and other items. After numerous physical altercations between the person in question and Clean St. Maarten personnel, the control unit informed Clean St. Maarten to refrain from approaching the person, and to advise law enforcement when the person got out of hand. This, however, does not seem a viable deterrent for the person in question, who has been locked up before and then released back into the community a few days later. The benches are also being moved daily by youngsters in the area who move them when they hang out in the alleys at

night. In the case of the garbage bin, Mendez said last Friday that it would be removed right away and the remaining bins would be spread out to cover the area. Clean St. Maarten can also replace the bin and will submit a quote to do so.

There is nothing Clean St. Maarten can do about the cannon, as this falls under the auspices of the Public Works Department. It was previously replaced and cannot be moved by hand. Clean St. Maarten could solve the problem with the missing electrical plates on the light poles but would have to get that directive from government.

"It is important for the general public to understand that Clean St. Maarten is responsible for the cleaning of the promenade. In our daily cleanings and dealings related to the cleaning we come across these issues. We will always take the calls and reports seriously and handle them all to the best of our ability, because it is for St. Maarten," Mendez said. □

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

WHO: Treat HIV patients sooner



In this photo taken on Oct. 10, 2009, Pham Huu Khoi, who is in the advanced stages of AIDS, lays in his bed at the Mai Hoa Center for HIV and AIDS patients in the village of An Nhon Tay, 60 kilometers, (37 miles) northwest of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

(AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

By MARIA CHENG,
AP Medical Writer

LONDON — People infected with the virus that causes AIDS should start treatment earlier than currently recommended, the World Health Organization said Monday.

The U.N. agency issued new guidance advising doctors to start giving patients AIDS drugs a year or two earlier than usual. The advice could double the number of people worldwide who qualify for treatment, adding an extra 3 to 5 million patients to the 5 million already awaiting AIDS drugs.

WHO's previous HIV treatment advice was published in 2006. Since then, several studies have shown people with HIV who start drugs earlier than recommended have a better chance of surviving.

WHO now advises doctors to start HIV patients on drugs when their level of CD4 cells — a measure of the immune system — is about 350. Previously they said doctors

should wait until patients' levels hovered around 200. In most Western countries, doctors start treating HIV patients when their CD4 count is about 500.

David Ross, an AIDS expert at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said there is compelling evidence HIV patients should start treatment sooner. People with HIV who aren't on AIDS drugs are more likely to catch a potentially fatal disease like tuberculosis or develop other complications when they do start the drugs, Ross said.

WHO's new recommendations also advise pregnant women with HIV to take the drugs earlier and while breast-feeding. The agency also said countries should phase out the use of the commonly used AIDS drug stavudine because of its toxic side effects. If countries with large outbreaks adopt the guidance, many more people could live longer, healthier lives, said Hiroki Nakatani, a top WHO official

in a statement.

Still, WHO's advice raises questions about how countries and donor agencies will pay for the lifelong AIDS treatment. About 4 million people worldwide are receiving AIDS drugs, but another 5 million are still waiting in line. With its new recommendations, WHO guessed that another 3 to 5 million people now qualify for the drugs.

It may also be difficult to

convince HIV patients to start the drugs sooner, when some may not have any AIDS symptoms. Putting more patients on the treatment for a longer period of time could also encourage drug resistance.

Ross said many AIDS programs in Africa are already struggling. He added there were anecdotal reports of clinics turning away new patients eligible for treatment

because they didn't have enough drugs to treat them.

Some experts said the new WHO guidance could add billions to the cost of global AIDS programs. "WHO may be biting off more than they can chew," said Philip Stevens, a director at International Policy Network, a London-based think tank. "I'm not sure how this will be possible to achieve, other than by cutting lots of corners," he said. □

Autism treatment works in kids as young as 18 mos.

By LINDSEY TANNER,
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — The first rigorous study of behavior treatment in autistic children as young as 18 months found two years of therapy can vastly improve symptoms, often resulting in a milder diagnosis.

The study was small — just 48 children evaluated at the University of Washington — but the results were so encouraging it has been expanded to several other sites, said Geraldine Dawson, chief science officer of the advocacy group Autism Speaks. Dawson, a former University of Washington professor, led the research team.

Early autism treatment has been getting more attention, but it remains controversial because there's scant rigorous evidence showing it really works. The study is thus "a landmark of great import," said Tony Charman, an autism education specialist at the Institute of Education in London.

There's also a growing emphasis on diagnosing autism at the earliest possible age, and the study shows that can pay off with early, effective treatment, said Laura Schreibman, an autism researcher at the University of California at San Diego.

The National Institute of Mental Health funded the study, which was published online Monday in Pediatrics.

Children aged 18 months to 30 months were randomly assigned to receive behavior treatment called the Early Start Denver model from therapists and parents, or they were referred to others for less comprehensive care. The therapy is similar to other types

of autism behavior treatment. It focused on social interaction and communication — which are both difficult for many autistic children. For example, therapists or parents would repeatedly hold a toy near a child's face to encourage the child to have eye contact — a common problem in autism. Or they'd reward children when they used words to ask for toys.

Children in the specialized group had four hours of therapist-led treatment five days a week, plus at least five hours weekly from parents.

After two years, IQ increased an average of almost 18 points in the specialized group, versus seven points in the others. Language skills also improved more in the specialized group. Almost 30 percent in the specialized group were re-diagnosed with a less severe form of autism after two years, versus 5 percent of the others. No children were considered "cured."

Ashton Faller of Everett, Wash., got specialized treatment, starting at age 2.

"He had no verbal speech whatsoever, no eye contact, he was very withdrawn," recalled his mother, Lisa Faller.

Within two years, Ashton had made "amazing" gains, she said. Now almost 6, he's in a normal kindergarten class, and though he still has mild delays in social skills, people have a hard time believing he is autistic, Faller said. The treatment is expensive; participants didn't pay, but it can cost \$50,000 a year, Dawson said. Some states require insurers to cover such costs, and Autism Speaks is working to expand those laws. □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks fall as investors worry about consumers



FILE - In this Aug. 28, 2009 file photo, a sign is shown at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stock futures are pointing to a modest decline Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, as investors try to balance concern about fallout from Dubai's debt crisis against encouraging signs from U.S. consumers.

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**
and **TIM PARADIS**,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Reviving worries about the strength of the holiday shopping season weighed on stocks.

Stocks fell modestly Monday as retailers slid and the dollar pared its losses against other major currencies. The strengthening greenback weighed on prices of some commodities, which hurt materials stocks.

Investors, reassured for the moment that credit problems in the Middle Eastern city-state of Dubai weren't a sign of spreading troubles, turned their attention to consumers, whose spending is the biggest driver of the U.S. economy. Preliminary figures by ShopperTrak, a research firm that tracks more than 50,000 outlets, showed that sales rose 0.5 percent on Friday, the start to the holiday shopping season. Online sales jumped 11 percent Thursday and Friday, according to comScore, an Internet research firm.

Sales met expectations but couldn't erase worries that consumer spending will still remain too weak to boost the economy. Investors have

been worried that rising unemployment would make shoppers uncomfortable about spending during the holidays. Traders are already looking to the government's November unemployment report, which is due Friday.

The National Retail Federation, a trade group, said Sunday it still expects holiday sales to slip 1 percent compared with last year.

Benny Lorenzo, CEO of the investment bank Kaufman Bros. in New York, said the retail numbers might not look as impressive because there were so many markdowns and clearance sales last year. He said investors are cautious about the results but pointed to Internet retailers as one area of strength.

"Certainly in a market like this it could've been a lot worse for sure," he said. "The online vendors, they seem to have done pretty well."

In early afternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 26.22, or 0.3 percent, to 10,283.70. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.52, or 0.3 percent, to 1,087.97, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 12.11, or 0.6 percent, to 2,126.33.

Bond prices were mixed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.22 percent from 3.21 percent late Friday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, rose to 0.06 percent from 0.01 percent. The dollar pared its losses against other major currencies, while gold rose.

The stock market's modest moves came after stocks tumbled Friday on concern about Dubai's debt problems. The Dow dropped 155 points before closing three hours early for the Thanksgiving holiday. It had fallen much as 233 points in early trading. Investors were initially anxious about the possibility that a debt default by Dubai could touch off a new round of lending problems even as credit markets are still recovering from last year's near-shutdown following the collapse of Lehman Brothers. However, it appeared U.S. investors hold little of Dubai's debt, which has eased some concerns. The United Arab Emirates, where Dubai is located, also said Sunday it will make extra funding available to all banks in the country, including foreign banks with local offices.

Rob Lutts, president and chief investment officer of Cabot Money Management, said that while some investments will be lost in Dubai, global stock markets are accounting for the potential losses.

"We've seen the impact," he said, pointing to the drops last week. "I think that issue is known now."

The broader worry is that banks and other lenders would cut back financing to other emerging markets because of fears of default, Lutts said. □

Court hears Vioxx lawsuit arguments

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**,

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for Merck & Co. told the Supreme Court Monday investors waited too late and didn't do all of the necessary investigations to sue the drug maker over whether it properly warned about the risks of its blockbuster painkiller Vioxx.

Whether the high court agrees with the drug maker will help clarify the legal standards for determining exactly when the clock starts running for the two-year window to sue a company accused of defrauding investors.

Merck wants the high court to overturn a decision by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that will let proceed a class-action securities lawsuit related to the tens of billions of dollars in shareholder value lost overnight after Merck pulled Vioxx off the market.

The Whitehouse Station, New Jersey-based company withdrew the drug from the market on Sept. 30, 2004 because it doubled the risks of heart attack, stroke and death.

Investors had accused Merck of providing misleading information or omitting information about the risks of Vioxx. After a widely publicized study comparing Vioxx to naproxen, another pain reliever, found about five times more heart attacks in the patient group taking Vioxx, Merck officials argued repeatedly that was because naproxen protected the heart. Experts have since dismissed that.

After it pulled Vioxx from the market, Merck was hit with a deluge of lawsuits from shareholders, patients and their survivors claiming Vioxx caused heart attacks and strokes, and from insurance plans seeking reimbursement for their costs for covering Vioxx prescriptions.

Merck says the investors should have known from public information that there could be problems with Vioxx, because the regulatory Food and Drug Administration had issued warnings to Merck about Vioxx risks late in September 2001. "There was sufficient information in the public domain," Merck lawyer Kannon Shanmugam said.

A U.S. district judge agreed and dismissed the November 2003 lawsuit, ruling it was filed after the two-year statute of limitations expired.

But the Philadelphia-based appeals court reversed that decision, allowing the many shareholder lawsuits, now consolidated in federal court, to proceed.

The court said the investors could not have known more than two years ahead of time of the possible wrongdoing by Merck. Shanmugam argued that the investors should have taken it upon themselves to investigate the problems, which would have extended the statute of limitations. But the justices questioned whether it would have been possible to come across any more information than what was already publicly available.

"It's a question of what a reasonable person would do," Justice Stephen Breyer said.

The rule said the clock on the statute of limitations begins after the discovery of the wrongdoing, Justice John Paul Stevens said. "You argue that it should be two years after he should have discovered" it, he said.

The court will make a decision on the case next year.

The case is Merck v. Reynolds, 08-905. □

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auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

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A World AIDS Day ribbon is seen on the North Portico of the White House in Washington, Monday, Nov. 30, 2009. World AIDS Day is Dec. 1, 2009.

Associated Press

Obama to reveal war plan, bids to sell Americans

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Tuesday reveals his plan for winning an unpopular 8-year-old war in Afghanistan, embarking on a mission to sell skeptical Americans on the need to put thousands more troops in harm's way and to spend additional billions of taxpayer dollars.

After deliberating with his security team for three months, Obama issued new orders to military commanders on Sunday, setting in motion a strategy that may represent a defining decision of his presidency. At least one group of U.S. Marines will be in place by Christmas.

The president faces stiff opposition in Congress, where lawmakers control spending for the war effort and many fellow Democrats oppose expanding or even continuing the conflict.

While specifics of the new policy have been closely guarded by the White House,



President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the Executive Office Building in the White House complex, in Washington, Monday, Nov. 23, 2009. Obama spoke about several initiatives designed to boost science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

Associated Press

others inside the administration have said that Obama has signed off on a step-by-step

addition of as many as 35,000 more troops.

Continued on Page B4

Police: Suspect in deaths of officers not in house

MANUEL VALDES,

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — The

suspect in the slaying of four police officers gunned down in a coffee shop was not found Monday in the Seattle home where he was thought to have been holed up overnight, likely wounded from his bloody encounter with the officers.

Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said the location of Maurice Clemmons was not known, and it's possible he still could be in the neighborhood. Troyer also said people who know Clemmons told investigators he had been shot in the torso.

"If he didn't get a ride out of there, he could still be in the area," Troyer said.

Troyer said warrants for first-degree murder have been issued against Clemmons, 37, who is accused of shooting four officers from the Tacoma suburb of Lakewood on Sunday morning as they were working in the coffee house. Pierce County, where the shootings happened, is the lead agency investigating the case.

Continued on Page B5



This photo provided by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department shows Maurice Clemmons, a person of interest in the killing of four Lakewood Police officers in Parkland, Wash., Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. The four officers were fatally shot while at a coffee shop in Parkland. Lakewood Police Chief Bret Farrar identified the victims as Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39; Ronald Owens, 37; Tina Griswold, 40; and Greg Richards, 42. Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer told reporters that Clemmons, 37, was one of several people investigators want to talk to and that he could not be called a suspect at this point.

Associated Press



This file photo released by the Department of Justice on Feb. 21, 2002, shows a World War II-era military service pass for John Demjanjuk. The 89-year-old goes on trial Monday in Munich on 27,900 counts of accessory to murder following 30 years of legal efforts against Demjanjuk on three continents. The trial breaks new legal ground in Germany, which is pressing forward vigorously with attempts to bring to justice World War II perpetrators while they remain alive.

Associated Press

Read Page B6

Defense official communicated with WH crashers



In this Aug. 5, 2008, file photo, Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan talks to reporters in Boston. On Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, a House committee chairman asked Michael and Tareq Salahi, the couple who crashed the Obama administration's first state dinner, and Sullivan to testify at a hearing Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, on the incident.

EILEEN SULLIVAN
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Obama administration's first state dinner communicated with a senior Pentagon official about going to the event, but

Associated Press

the official denies that she helped the couple get in.

Michele Jones, a special assistant to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, said in a written statement issued through the White House on Monday evening that she never said or implied she would get Michael and Tareq Salahi into the Nov. 24 White House dinner.

"I specifically stated that they did not have tickets and in fact that I did not have the authority to authorize attendance, admittance or access to any part of the evening's activities," Jones said. "Even though I informed them of this, they still decided to come."

This is the latest twist in the unfolding mystery of how the two reality show wannabes managed to get into the highly secured event and shake hands with President Barack Obama. Also on Monday, a House committee chairman asked the couple and Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan to testify at a hearing Thursday on the incident.

The White House issued Jones' statement after questions were raised about communications

between the administration and the couple prior to the dinner.

A friend of the couple told The Washington Post that the Salahis interpreted their e-mail exchange with Jones as permission to attend the exclusive party.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said he wants answers about the Secret Service's security deficiencies that allowed the Salahis to attend the dinner. A White House photo showed the Salahis in the receiving line in the Blue Room with Obama and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in whose honor the dinner was held. Obama and Michael Salahi are smiling as she grasps his right hand with both of hers and her husband looks on. Singh is to Obama's left.

"This is a time for answers," Thompson said in a statement Monday. "This is not the time for political games or scapegoating to distract our attention from the careful oversight we must apply to the Secret Service and its mission."

Some lawmakers have called for criminal charges to be brought against the couple, but the Secret Service has not yet decided whether to refer the case for criminal prosecution. The Secret Service declined to comment on whether Sullivan would testify on Thursday. On Friday, Sullivan issued a statement saying that his agency is "deeply concerned and embarrassed" by the circumstances.

Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan said the couple was not on the approved list for the party, but they were allowed in. "This should not have occurred," Donovan said.

"The preliminary findings of our internal investigation have determined established protocols were not followed at an initial checkpoint, verifying that two individuals were on the guest list," Sullivan said Friday. "Although these individuals went through magnetometers and other levels of screening, they should have been prohibited

from entering the event entirely. That failing is ours."

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Monday the president shares the Secret Service director's concern about the incident.

"That's why there's an investigation," Gibbs said. Gibbs said the president was not concerned about his safety and continues to have faith in the Secret Service.

The ranking Republican on the House Homeland Security committee, Rep. Peter King of New York, also said there needs to be an investigation into what happened. King said he wants to be sure the hearing does not give away Secret Service operations or methods that could tip someone off how to get into the White House. King said he's been to at least 40 invitation-only events at the White House — including two state dinners — and security has always been tight and thorough.

The Salahis have boasted about going to the state dinner on their Facebook page: "Honored to be at the White House for the state dinner in honor of India with President Obama and our First Lady!" they wrote.

Michael Salahi is a reality TV hopeful trying to get on Bravo's "The Real Housewives of D.C."

The couple's publicist, Mahogany Jones, could not immediately be reached for comment about whether the Salahis would testify Thursday. But earlier Monday, Jones said allegations that the Salahis are shopping interviews and demanding money from television networks to tell their story are false.

Jones said the couple is not making any formal comments or arrangements to speak with the media. An appearance previously scheduled for Monday night on CNN's "Larry King Live" has been canceled.

A TV executive who spoke on condition of anonymity to publicly discuss bookings had told The Associated Press that the couple's representatives had urged networks to "get their bids in" for an interview.

HIV STIGMA

Because of the stigma associated with HIV, many people are reluctant to get tested and an infected person may unknowingly continue to have unprotected sexual relationships.

Persons already diagnosed know they have a responsibility to prevent further transmission. Fear of being stigmatized, however, may prevent some persons from disclosing their status.

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Clinton daughter Chelsea engaged to be married

BETH FOUHY

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Turns out those discredited rumors of a possible Chelsea Clinton wedding last summer were mostly just premature: The 29-year old daughter of former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has become engaged to her longtime boyfriend, 31-year old investment banker Marc Mezvinsky. The couple sent an e-mail to friends Friday announcing the news, saying they were looking at a possible wedding next summer. Matt McKenna, a spokesman for the former president, confirmed the engagement Monday.

Mezvinsky is a son of former Pennsylvania Rep. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky and former Iowa Rep. Ed Mezvinsky, longtime friends of the Clintons. Ed Mezvinsky was released from federal prison last year after serving a nearly five-year sentence for wire and bank fraud. Margolies-Mezvinsky served just one term in Congress before losing her seat in 1994 after voting in favor of President Clinton's 1993 budget, which was controversial at the time. At the State Department Monday, Hillary Clinton had one brief encounter with reporters but took no questions. Later, her spokesman, Ian C. Kelly,

was asked about the reported engagement but said it would be inappropriate for him to comment.

"I have a daughter who's around, she's 22 years old. And the last thing I would want would be for the State Department spokesman to talk about the personal plans of my daughter, so I am going to decline any comment on that," Kelly said.

The former first daughter and her fiancé became friends as teenagers in Washington and both attended Stanford University. They now live in New York, where Mezvinsky works at G3 Capital, a Manhattan hedge fund, and Clinton is pursuing a graduate degree at Columbia University's School of Public Health.

Before returning to graduate school, Clinton worked at Avenue Capital, a hedge fund run by prominent Democratic donor Marc Lasry. She also worked at McKinsey and Company, a management consulting firm.

Since her debut on the public

stage as a curly haired 12-year old during her father's 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton has maintained a fairly low public profile. That changed in 2008, when the press-shy Clinton stepped out on the campaign trail to help her mother's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Before beginning a relationship with Mezvinsky, Clinton dated Ian Klaus, a Rhodes Scholar she met while studying international relations at Oxford in 2002. Klaus dedicated his first book, "Elvis is Titanic," about his experience teaching in the Kurdistan province of Iraq, to Clinton.

Earlier this year, Hillary Clinton was forced to tamp down speculation that her daughter and Mezvinsky were already engaged and would marry in August on Martha's Vineyard. President Barack Obama, who was vacationing on the island at the time, was rumored to be on the guest list.

Clinton aides, citing



In this Dec. 1996 file photo, Chelsea Clinton, right, sits with Marc Mezvinsky on the beach at Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Associated Press

Chelsea's privacy, declined to disclose whether she has received an engagement ring or any other details about wedding plans. It will be an interfaith marriage; Mezvinsky is Jewish, while

Clinton grew up attending Methodist Church with her mother. Bill Clinton is Southern Baptist.

Word of the engagement was first reported by ABC News. □

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WAR PLAN

Continued from Page B1

And comments Monday by White House spokesman Robert Gibbs indicated that Obama will be forward looking in his nationally televised speech at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. He will focus on the need to protect Afghans from the brutal Taliban insurgency and to train the country's security forces for the day when they assume control of a land that has been at war for 30 years.

Obama is not expected to set a deadline for an American withdrawal.

"I think there has to be a renewed emphasis on the training of Afghan national security forces," Gibbs said, explaining that the president's plan looked toward to the day when the Afghan army and

police would be "primarily responsible" for security.

The United States went to war in Afghanistan shortly after the 2003 al-Qaida terrorist attacks on the United States.

Osama bin Laden, leader of the group, and key members of the terrorist organization were headquartered in Afghanistan at the time, taking advantage of sanctuary afforded by the Taliban government that ran the mountainous and isolated country.

Taliban forces were quickly driven from power, while bin Laden and his top deputies were believed to have fled into neighboring Pakistan. While the al-Qaida leadership appears to be bottled up in the rugged mountains, the U.S. military strategy of targeted missile attacks from unmanned drone aircraft has yet to



flush bin Laden and his cohort from hiding.

That, the administration argues, means the U.S. must continue fighting to prevent the Taliban from regaining control and reopening the country to al-Qaida.

"I think what the president will discuss ... is ensuring that we prevent the Taliban from being capable of controlling the government of Afghanistan, as well as incapable of providing safe haven from which al-Qaida can plot and undertake terrorist activities like we've seen happen previously in the United States," Gibbs said.

The escalation of U.S. forces over the coming year would put more than 100,000 American troops in Afghanistan at an annual cost of about \$75 billion.

Obama notified key administration and military officials of his decision Sunday night and spent the day Monday contacting leaders of key American allies,

especially NATO members who have a significant troop commitment in Afghanistan.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Monday announced that 500 extra U.K. troops would arrive in southern Afghanistan next month.

Britain has taken the lead in lobbying for extra reinforcements for the NATO mission in Afghanistan. Last week, Brown said that NATO nations — not including the U.S. — are prepared to offer about 5,000 more troops for Afghanistan. So far, Slovakia has offered 250 extra soldiers, Georgia has pledged between 700 and 1,000 soldiers, and South Korea has said it would send "several hundred" to protect its reconstruction teams.

Right now, there are about 71,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. NATO and other allies collectively have an additional 36,000 troops in the country.

While some congressional Democrats are lining up in opposition to an expanded U.S. mission, Republicans have been pressing Obama to move more quickly to meet the request of Afghan commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal who has said the U.S. was headed for defeat without the troop increase.

McChrystal issued his report on the Afghan mission in late summer, and — as administration deliberations dragged on — he publicly pressed Obama about the need for about 40,000 addition troops. His report was leaked to the Washington Post.

After that, former Vice President Dick Cheney accused Obama of "dithering" over the decision.

Supporters, however, said Obama was taking the time and care that the former Bush administration should have employed before going to war in Afghanistan and then in Iraq. □

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OFFICERS DEATH*Continued from Page B1*

Police surrounded the house late Sunday. Before heavily armed police officers determined shortly before dawn that Clemmons was not in the house, negotiators spent hours trying to communicate with him, using loudspeakers, explosions and even a robot sent into the house. At one point, gunshots rang through the neighborhood. Clemmons has a long criminal history, including a long prison sentence commuted by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee nearly a decade ago, and a recent arrest for allegedly assaulting a police officer in Washington state. Authorities allege he killed Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39, and officers Ronald Owens, 37, Tina Griswold, 40, and

Greg Richards, 42, as they worked on their laptop computers at the beginning of their shifts.

Clemmons is believed to have been in the area of the coffee shop around the time of the shooting, but Troyer declined to say what evidence might link him to the shooting.

Investigators say they know of no reason four gunning down the officers, but court documents indicate Clemmons is delusional and mentally unstable.

"We're going to be surprised if there is a motive worth mentioning," said Troyer, who sketched out a scene of controlled and deliberate carnage that spared the employees and other customers at the coffee shop in suburban Parkland, about 35 miles south of Seattle. □



Seattle SWAT search for the suspect in the killing of four police officers in Parkland, Wash., on Monday, Nov. 30, 2009 in Seattle. A heavily armed SWAT team stormed a Seattle home Monday where they thought they had cornered the suspect in the slaying of four police officers at a coffee shop, only to find out that he was not in the house and still on the loose. The discovery added new urgency to the manhunt for Maurice Clemmons as police canvassed the neighborhood with search dogs and hundreds of officers were deployed around Seattle for any sign of the suspect.

Associated Press

Hurricane season ends with barely a whimper

By RUSS BYNUM

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The Atlantic hurricane season ended Monday with barely a whimper: Not a single hurricane came ashore in the United States.

Since June, when the season began, just nine named storms developed. Only three of them became hurricanes, and those stayed out at sea or weakened before passing over land.

Two tropical storms made landfall in the U.S., causing little more than rain and some beach erosion.

"We had a great, great year," said Chris Vecsey, a salesman at Top Gun Tackle in Orange Beach, Ala., near where Tropical Storm Ida slogged ashore in November. "Last year we had Gustav and Ike and a couple of other storms that didn't even hit here. And with all the hype, it ruined us. It just didn't happen this year."

The 2009 season was on target with the lower end of forecasters' predictions. Before the season began June 1, the National Hurricane Center had anticipated nine to 14 storms, with four to seven hurricanes — a prediction that the Miami-based center scaled back slightly in August before the arrival of the season's first storm, Tropical Storm Ana.

James Franklin, the center's chief hurricane specialist, credited much of the quiet season to El Nino, the periodic warming of the central Pacific Ocean. El Nino, he said, produced strong winds in the Atlantic that cut down storms before they could develop into hurricanes.

Franklin said forecasters also noticed drier conditions in the atmosphere, which limited the

potential for storms.

"Lately we've had busy seasons," Franklin said. "To get a year this quiet, it's a little bit unusual."

The 2009 hurricane season was the quietest since 2006, which also had nine total storms and five hurricanes, none of which made landfall in the U.S.

To find a season with fewer storms, you have to look back to 1997. That year, there were just seven storms, including three hurricanes. One of them, Hurricane Danny, killed at least nine people as it stalled over the Alabama coast and flooded parts of the Carolinas, causing \$100 million in damage. The 2009 season was not all mild. Tropical Storm Claudette poured up to 4.5 inches of rain when it made landfall at Fort Walton Beach on the Florida Panhandle in August, then quickly fizzled. Also in August, Hurricane Bill, a large Category 4 storm, was blamed for the deaths of two swimmers in Florida and Maine as it passed the East Coast.

Ida was a hurricane but weakened to a tropical storm before it came ashore in Alabama about three weeks ago. Its remnants swept up the East Coast, bringing heavy rain and flooding from the Carolinas to New Jersey.

The third 2009 hurricane, Fred, fizzled in the ocean without touching land. Don Langham, emergency operations director for Jackson County on the Mississippi coast, said Ida's late arrival was a good wake-up call for residents after what had proven to be a tranquil hurricane season.

"That's why they say the season never ends until Nov. 30," Langham said. "It was a good little test run."

After suffering the brunt of punishing hurricanes such as Katrina and Rita in 2005 and Gustav and Ike in 2008, residents of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts were grateful for this year's break. But not everybody is ready to declare the 2009 season over.

In Pensacola Beach, Fla., which was devastated by Hurricane Ike in 2004, Sam Boutwell said he's not counting on a storm-free winter.

"There is always that chance," Boutwell said Monday as he worked at the beachside pier renting fishing poles and tackle to tourists. "We have had out-of-season storms."

Meanwhile, several state and local emergency officials said quiet hurricane seasons make them worry that coastal residents will take the threat less seriously in 2010.

"They're going to be more complacent next year, and that's something we need to keep in mind," said Mark Cooper, director of the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Still, the peaceful 2009 season turned out to be a well-timed blessing for Patrick Keene and his wife, Kathie, who are rebuilding a home in Pascagoula, Miss., that was demolished by Hurricane Katrina. Ida passed without disrupting construction, and Keene said he expects to move in well before the next hurricane season. His newly fortified home is made of concrete rather than wood and sits six feet higher off the ground than his old house.

"We all realize that our days are numbered," Keene said. "It's just a matter of time before you get another one." □

Demjanjuk tried in Germany for Nazi death camp tie

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, left, shakes hands with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko, as he welcomes him for their meeting in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Russia is helping Iran to complete its first nuclear power plant, in early 2010, after repeating delays.

Associated Press

DAVID RISING

Associated Press Writer

MUNICH (AP) — A German court put John Demjanjuk on trial Monday to face charges of being an accessory to the murder of 27,900 Jews at a Nazi death camp and his lawyer immediately accused the court in Munich of bias. The 89-year-old retired Ohio autoworker arrived in a wheelchair to face the final chapter of some 30 years of efforts to prosecute him, wearing a navy baseball cap and covered in a light blue blanket. His attorney opened the proceedings by filing a motion against the court's judge and prosecutors, accusing them of treating the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk harsher than Germans who ran the Nazi's Sobibor death camp in occupied Poland. Lawyer Ulrich Busch charged that the case should never have been brought to trial. He

cited cases in which Germans assigned to Sobibor — where prosecutors allege Demjanjuk served as a guard — were acquitted.

"How can you say that those who gave the orders were innocent ... and the one who received the orders is guilty?" Busch told the court. "There is a moral and legal double standard being applied today."

Demjanjuk was deported in May from the United States to Germany, and has been in custody since then. He could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

A doctor who examined Demjanjuk two hours before the trial began said his vital signs were all stable.

Demjanjuk's family, however, says he is terminally ill. His trial has been limited to two 90-minute sessions per day.

Demjanjuk kept his eyes closed throughout the proceedings and remained mute in response to the judge's questions about his personal details. He repeatedly opened his mouth, apparently wincing in pain.

Efraim Zuroff, the top Nazi-hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said it was important the trial was finally taking place, but felt that Demjanjuk may have been trying to look more ill than he was.

"He has a vested interest in

appearing as sick and as frail as possible. And he's going to play it up to the hilt," said Zuroff, who attended the opening.

Demjanjuk became a household name in the 1980s when he was extradited by the United States for trial in Israel on charges that he was the notoriously brutal guard at the Nazi's Treblinka death camp who earned the moniker "Ivan the Terrible" for his deeds.

He was convicted in 1988 of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and spent seven years in prison until Israel's Supreme Court in 1993 overturned the conviction. It ruled that another person, not Demjanjuk, was actually "Ivan the Terrible."

Demjanjuk, a former Soviet Red Army soldier, is now accused of volunteering to serve as a guard under the SS after being taken prisoner by the Nazis in 1942.

According to the indictment, he served as a simple "wachmann," or guard, under the SS. As such, he is the lowest-ranking person to go on trial for Nazi war crimes.

The prosecution argues that, even with no living witnesses who can implicate Demjanjuk in specific acts of brutality or murder, just being a guard at a death camp means he was involved in the Nazis' machinery of destruction. □

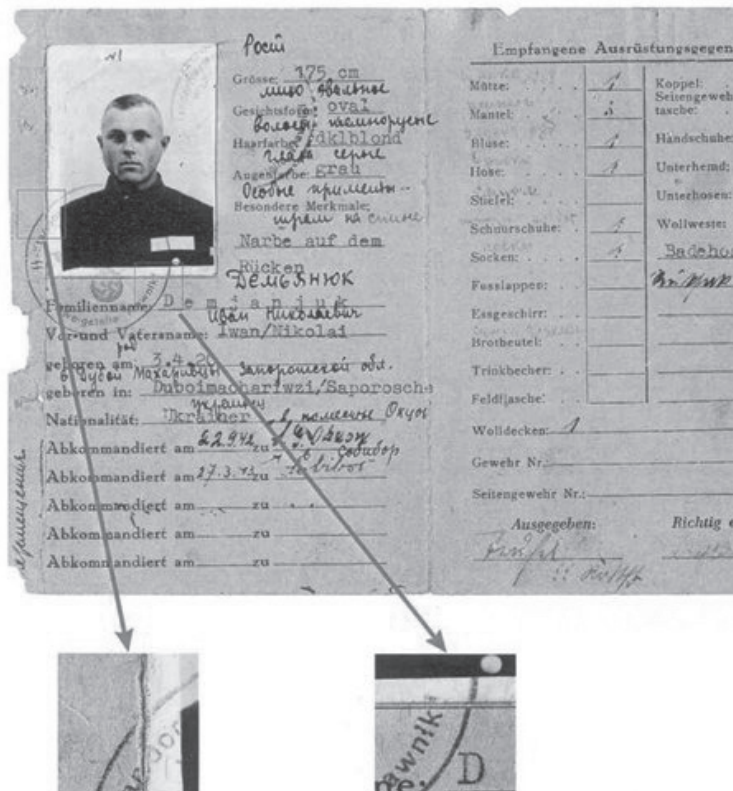


Exhibit 1 - Questioned Identification Document.



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R	PRECIOUS	daily: 1:15	6:15 3:45	8:45 late show: 11:15
R	NEX DAY AIR	daily: 7:45	10:00	late show: 12:00
PG	THIS IS IT: MICHAEL JACKSON	daily: 1:00	6:00 3:30	8:30 late show: 11:00
PG	TIM BURTON'S NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS	daily: 12:00	4:00 2:00	6:00 late show: 3:00
G	SINTERKLAAS EN DE VERDVENEN PAKJESBOOT	daily: 12:00	4:30 2:15	6:45 late show: 3:00
R	THE STEPFATHER	daily: 9:00	late show: 11:30	

AT PASEO HERENCIA				
PG-13	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	daily: 12:00	5:30 2:45	8:30 late show: 11:30
PG-13	2012	daily: 1:00	4:30	8:00 late show: 11:15
PG	ASTRO BOY	daily: 12:00	4:30 2:15	late show: 3:00
R	LAW ABIDING CITIZEN	daily: 9:15	late show: 12:00	
PG	THIS IS IT: MICHAEL JACKSON	daily: 12:45	5:45 3:15	8:15 late show: 11:00
PG-13	COUPLES RETREAT	daily: 7:15	9:45	late show: 12:15
PG-13	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE	daily: 12:30	5:00 2:45	late show: 3:00
R	PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	daily: 6:45	9:00	late show: 11:15
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Iran holds yacht with five British nationals

RAPHAEL G. SATTER,
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Iran is holding five British sailors after stopping their racing yacht in the Persian Gulf, the British government said Monday. The move could heighten tensions between Iran and major world powers, including Britain, that are demanding a halt to its nuclear program.

The yacht owned by Sail Bahrain was stopped on its way from the tiny island country to the Gulf city of Dubai on Wednesday when it “may have strayed inadvertently into Iranian waters,” Britain’s Foreign Office said. Sail Bahrain’s Web site identified the yacht as the “Kingdom of Bahrain” and said it had been due to join the 360-mile Dubai-Muscat Offshore Sailing Race, which was to begin Nov. 26. The event was to be the boat’s first offshore race, the Web site said, adding that the vessel had been fitted with a satellite tracker.

Attempts to reach representatives of the raceboat’s owner were not immediately successful.

Richard Schofield, an expert on international boundaries in the Middle East at King’s College in London, said it was difficult to understand how the boat could have ended up in trouble with Iranian authorities.

“It’s hard to see why, on a

regular journey from Bahrain to Dubai, they would have gone through Iranian territorial waters,” he said.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said that British officials had been in touch about the matter with their Iranian counterparts for nearly a week. It was not immediately clear why British officials had decided to publicize the case now.

“I hope this issue will soon be resolved,” Miliband said in the brief statement.

The statement added that the crew members “are still in Iran” and were “understood to be safe” but did not specify where they were and what their legal status was. A Foreign Office spokeswoman said she was not in a position to elaborate. She spoke anonymously in line with department policy. A spokesman for Britain’s military also declined comment.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry official said he was not aware of reports a British yacht had been stopped. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard has the responsibility for protecting Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf. Officials from the Guard and from the regular navy could not be reached for comment on Monday.

Iran is holding three young Americans who strayed across the border from northern Iraq in July. The U.S. has appealed for their release, saying they were innocent hikers who accidentally crossed into Iran. Tehran has accused them of spying, a sign that they could be put on trial.

Fifteen British military personnel were detained in the Gulf by Iran under disputed circumstances in March 2007. Iran charged them with trespassing in its waters, and the Iranian government televised apologies by some of the captured crew.

All were eventually freed without an apology from Britain, which steadfastly insisted the crew members were taken in Iraqi waters, where they were authorized to be.

Schofield, of King’s College, said that Iran had a pattern of taking such action when it was feeling “a little defensive.” “There’s pressure being felt,” he said. “It has happened before.” But he added that, as this case involved civilians, it was less likely to be prey to international tensions.

The phone rang unanswered at the Iranian Embassy in London.

Iran’s nuclear chief on Monday said U.N. criticism of its nuclear program had pushed his country to retaliate by announcing ambitious plans

Canada float plane crash kills six, including baby

SATURNA, British Columbia (AP) — A float plane crashed off Canada’s Pacific coast, killing six people, including a Vancouver doctor and her six month-old baby, as well as two American residents. Two people on board survived. The Dehavilland Beaver aircraft went down Sunday during takeoff in Lyall Harbour, off Saturna Island in British Columbia’s Gulf Islands — about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Vancouver.

Only two of the eight on board — the pilot and a female passenger — were rescued within minutes of the crash and both are expected to survive, although one has serious injuries, the other is listed in stable condition. Bill Yearwood of Canada’s Transportation Safety Board said investigators are hoping the pilot can tell them

what went wrong.

A float plane is an aircraft equipped with pontoons for water landings.

Coast guard spokesman Troy Haddock said divers recovered the bodies of six people who were trapped in the plane which sank in 11 meters (36 feet) of water, moments after going down. James White heard the crash and rushed to his boat to look for survivors, but while he got into Lyall Harbour within minutes, the plane had already slipped beneath the water.

“There was no sign of anybody else or any other debris from the aircraft so I think it probably sank pretty fast,” White said.

He found a woman and the pilot close together in the water, both conscious and begging for help. □



November 2008 photo released by Team Pindar of the race yacht Kingdom of Bahrain off the coast of France. Britain’s Foreign Office says that the yacht, owned by Sail Bahrain and carrying five U.K. nationals has been stopped by Iranian naval vessels, and they are now in Iran. Government officials said Monday that the yacht may have strayed inadvertently into Iranian waters when it was stopped last Wednesday en route from Bahrain to Dubai to take part in a race.

Associated Press

for more uranium enrichment. France said diplomacy was not working and sanctions against Iran were needed. □

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Rights watchdog hints Swiss minaret ban could go



The minaret of the big mosque of Geneva seen on Sunday Nov. 29, 2009, in Geneva, in Switzerland. Swiss voters approved a move to ban the construction of minarets in a vote on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009, on a right-wing initiative that labeled the mosque towers as symbols of militant Islam, according to projected results issued by a polling institute.

FRANK JORDANS
 Associated Press Writer

GENEVA (AP) — A Swiss ban on minarets could violate fundamental liberties, Europe's top human-rights watchdog said Monday in an indication that the heavily criticized vote could be overturned. The Council of Europe said banning "new minarets in Switzerland raises concerns as to whether fundamental rights of individuals, protected by

Associated Press international treaties, should be subject to popular votes." The statement by the 47-nation council's secretary-general, Thorbjorn Jagland, suggests a case may be made to seek a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights condemning Switzerland for violating freedom of expression, freedom of religion and prohibition of discrimination. Swiss Justice Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf

said the ban would come into force immediately, but also indicated that the court could strike down the Sunday vote, which incurred swift condemnation at home and abroad for banning the towers used to put out the Islamic call to prayer. "The ban contradicts the European Convention on Human Rights," Zurich daily Blick cited Widmer-Schlumpf as saying, referring to the 1950 treaty laying out basic rights that the court in Strasbourg, France, was created to ensure member states abide by. The referendum backed by nationalist parties was approved by 57.5 percent of the population Sunday, forcing the government to declare illegal the building of any new minarets in Switzerland. It doesn't affect the country's four existing minarets. France's Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said he was "a bit scandalized" by the vote, which amounts to "oppressing a religion." "I hope that the Swiss will go back on this decision rather quickly," Kouchner said on France's RTL radio. "It is an

expression of intolerance, and I detest intolerance." The U.N.'s special investigator on religious freedom, Asma Jahangir, said the ban on new minarets constitutes "a clear discrimination against members of the Muslim community in Switzerland." Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, called the ban an "example of growing anti-Islamic incitement in Europe by the extremist, anti-immigrant, xenophobic, racist, scare-mongering ultra-right politicians who reign over common sense, wisdom and universal values." Wealthy Arab tourists might think twice now about spending their money in Geneva and other Swiss cities popular with visitors from the Gulf, and the neutral country's efforts to mediate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could also suffer, said Daniel Warner, a Swiss-American political scientist at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. Arriving at a meeting of European Union justice ministers, Widmer-Schlumpf

argued the vote was not "a referendum against Islam ... but a vote directed against fundamentalist developments." She defended the referendum as being "about minarets and not, of course, about the Islamic community," she said. "We are interested in a multi-religious society in Switzerland." Supporters of the ban said the number of Muslims in Switzerland had grown sharply from 50,000 in 1980, but it is still only 4 percent of the 7.5 million population, many of whom don't practice. Western Europe has an estimated 14 million Muslims. Voting figures showed a rural-urban split in the Swiss vote, with only 38.6 percent of people in major cities backing the ban compared with about two-thirds of the population in smaller towns and villages, officials said. Anne-Marie Birnstiel, in the wealthy Alpine town of Gstaad told AP Television News she was disappointed by the vote and afraid of the consequences for Switzerland. □

Somali pirates hijack \$20M Tanker of oil going to U.S.

KATHARINE HOURELD,
 Associated Press Writer
 NAIROBI, Kenya — Crews on oil tankers aren't allowed to smoke above deck, much less carry guns, for fear of igniting the ship's payload. That's one of the main reasons Somali pirates met little resistance when they hijacked a U.S.-bound supertanker carrying \$20 million in crude. The Greek-flagged tanker — traveling from Saudi Arabia to New Orleans — had no escort when it was hijacked Sunday because naval warships are stretched too thin. The problem has been further exacerbated because pirates have expanded their operations to hundreds of miles out at sea. The hijacking, one year after seizure of a Saudi supertanker led to heightened international efforts to fight piracy off the

Horn of Africa, has highlighted the difficulty of keeping ships safe in the region — particularly oil tankers. The Maran Centaurus was about 800 miles off the coast of Somalia when it was hijacked with 28 crew, said Cmdr. John Harbour, a spokesman for the EU Naval Force. On Monday, it was headed toward Somalia's lawless coast, a location where pirates most likely will hold the vessel as they attempt to negotiate a multimillion-dollar ransom. While some ships traveling in the region have been outfitted with high pressure water guns and piercing noisemakers to repel pirates, even this is shunned on oil tankers for fear of triggering a response from pirates armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades. "If you're not allowed to

smoke a cigarette on the upper deck of an oil tanker, why would you want someone with a weapon up there?" said Graeme Gibbon-Brooks, who heads the private security company Dryad Maritime Intelligence. There is also the threat that an accident or gunfight could lead to a leak that would devastate thousands of miles of ocean or coastline. Protecting the huge tankers that carry more than half of the world's oil supply is made even more difficult because of their slow speed. Sailors can typically distinguish fishermen from pirates around 300 yards, but by then it is too late to stop most attacks, said Gibbon-Brooks. Expense and legal worries rule out armed escorts on a separate



In this image made available by NATO in London, Monday Nov. 30, 2009, Portuguese Naval Marines from the frigate 'Alvares Cabral', guard a group of Somali pirates, during a joint operation with Seychelles and EU forces in the Somali Basin, off the Seychelles, Sunday Nov. 29, 2009, against a pirate group that had attacked the-Spanish flagged fishing vessel 'Ortuba Berria'. Involved on the operation, besides the NATO flagship, were the Seychelles Patrol Boat 'Andromache' and two Maritime Patrol Aircraft's from the EU Task-Force also operating in the area on counter-piracy mission. The aircrafts detected and tracked the pirate attacking group composed by a mother-ship and two smaller attack skiffs.

Associated Press

ship, he said, suggesting the best way to evade attack was for tankers to increase speed and steer the ship 30 to 45 degrees either side of its course. The swinging motion increases

wake, destabilizing pirate skiffs, and keeps the low stern moving where pirates usually board. Trailing nets or lines behind vessels can also help by fouling the propellers of pirate skiffs, he said. □

Honduran president-elect banking on U.S. support

ALEXANDRA OLSON
Associated Press Writer

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Honduras' president-elect is not worried that many countries do not recognize his election. Washington supports Porfirio Lobo, and that's what matters most to this Central American nation.

Lobo, 61, lit up in public appearances Monday with his trademark toothy grin as he assured Hondurans that the crisis over the June 28 coup that overthrew leftist-allied President Manuel Zelaya would soon be history.

"It's difficult not to recognize an electoral process in a democratic country," Lobo said at a news conference with foreign reporters. "This is how the crisis ends."

That is what coup supporters have hoped all along, and why they resisted reinstating Zelaya before Sunday's vote despite intense international pressure.

Leaders in many Latin American countries, particularly those on the left, are standing firm in refusing to recognize the election, saying it sets a dangerous precedent for a region that has been vulnerable to coups.

But those nations are unlikely to influence Honduras, a very poor country that sends the bulk of its exports to the United States and relies heavily on money sent home from the 1 million Hondurans who live in the U.S.

Washington's position also is likely to influence other countries, and some have already followed its lead in accepting the vote, including Colombia, Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Peru.

Brazil, the most influential country to reject the election, is Latin America's largest economy but it has minimal trade relations with Honduras.

Venezuela's leftist president, Hugo Chavez, tried to increase his influence in Honduras under Zelaya, sending oil exports in exchange for long-term payment at a very low interest rate. But Honduras still got most of its oil from the U.S. and other countries,

so it made little difference when Chavez stopped fuel shipments to protest the coup. Politically, however, Lobo could suffer. Brazil and Venezuela have enough clout to keep the Organization of American States from reinstating Honduras, which could bar the Lobo government from diplomatic summits — a sanction that communist Cuba faced for five decades.

Heather Berkman, a Honduran expert with the New York-based Eurasia group, predicts most countries will re-establish ties and multilateral groups are likely to follow.

"There's a new president, from peaceful elections that were largely seen as legitimate and transparent," she said. "It's going to be hard, I think, for countries to ignore another country in the region for the next five years."

Many Hondurans just want to be rid of crippling isolation, including the suspension of U.S. development aid and anti-narcotics cooperation

in a country suffering from staggering drug gang violence.

Washington also wants Lobo to patch up the political conflict that resulted from Zelaya's ouster over his attempt to hold a referendum on changing the constitution after the Supreme Court ruled the effort illegal. "We recognize those results, and we commend Mr. Lobo for having won these elections," Arturo Valenzuela, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere, said in Washington.

But the United States has stopped short of promising to restore aid and military ties with its old ally, saying negotiations must continue on forming a unity government to run Honduras until Lobo takes office when Zelaya's term expires Jan. 27.

"While the election is a necessary step, it is not a sufficient one," Valenzuela said.

Under a U.S.-brokered pact, Honduran lawmakers are to



President-elect Porfirio Lobo greets supporters in Tegucigalpa, Monday, Nov. 30, 2009. Lobo already faces an international crisis even before taking office as many countries of the hemisphere refuse to recognize his government which was chosen in the shadow of a coup.

Associated Press

vote Wednesday on whether Zelaya should be restored as president to head the unity government. However, that is unlikely.

Zelaya, who remains holed up at the Brazilian Embassy, has said he will not return to the presidency even if Congress votes him back in, saying the window for reversing the coup

has closed.

Zelaya says Washington turned its back on him.

"I'm totally shocked at how this election has been inflated to turn into a lie for Hondurans," Zelaya told Radio Globo on Monday. "This process is full of vices. It has no legitimacy and it should be annulled." □

Argentine judge suspends region's first gay marriage

hopes that the wedding will go forth as planned," said Maria Rachid, president of the Argentine Federation for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals who coordinated the team of lawyers that filed the couple's suit.

Rachid said the couple had not been officially notified of Monday's order and would appear at the marriage registry Tuesday.

"If the civil registry where the wedding was to take place refuses to go through with the ceremony, the gay community will organize a protest," Rachid told The Associated Press.

The court Web site said the civil registry where the wedding was to take place had been notified of the latest ruling.

Two weeks ago, a city judge, acting with the blessing of Buenos Aires' mayor, ruled the couple had been unconstitutionally denied a marriage license and gave them permission to wed.

"We have a huge responsibility on our shoulders," Freyre told the AP in discussing the implications of the couple's effort. "People are suffering because of these limitations."

In 2002, Buenos Aires became the first Spanish-speaking city to allow same-sex civil unions.

Argentina's national legislature opened debate last month on a bill that would change a civil code provision defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. A new marriage law would mean gay couples could enjoy all the rights of a married couple like the right to adopt children, inherit wealth or share a health care plan.

"Our families need to have these rights, especially people like us who live with HIV and need a shared health care plan," Freyre said.

The couple, who met at an HIV awareness rally, wanted to marry on Dec. 1 because it is World AIDS day. □



Alex Freyre, right, and Jose Maria Di Bello pose for a photo hand in hand after applying to marry at the civil registry in Buenos Aires, Monday, Nov. 16, 2009. A judge declared unconstitutional a law that bans same sex marriage and authorized the marriage between Freyre and Di Bello for Dec. 1. The couple are both are HIV positive and wear the red sashes to promote AIDS awareness. The sign reads in Spanish "Yes, I do."

Associated Press

VANESSA HAND ORELLANA

Associated Press Writer

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — An Argentine judge put a hold Monday on another court's decision to permit the first gay marriage in Latin America, but supporters of the couple said they would try to go ahead with the ceremony anyway.

The official court Web site said national judge Marta Gomez Alsina ordered the wedding blocked until the issue can be considered by the Supreme Court.

Jose Maria Di Bello and his partner, Alex Freyre, set plans to wed Tuesday based on an earlier ruling by a city judge in Buenos Aires.

"They are shocked and saddened by the news, but still have

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Notre Dame fires Weis after another dismal season



Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis walks off the field after Stanford defeated Notre Dame 45-38 in their NCAA college football game in Stanford, Calif., Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009.

Associated Press

By TOM COYNE

AP Sports Writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Charlie Weis arrived at Notre Dame flashing Super Bowls rings and talking about outsmarting opponents. He leaves one of college football's most prestigious programs without even matching the record of the two men who were fired before him.

Athletic director Jack Swarbrick announced the decision to fire Weis on Monday.

"For many of you who may have thought that was a foregone conclusion, I would say to you that the decision was harder than you might have thought, principally because of the man it involved," Swarbrick said during a news conference on campus.

Swarbrick said there was a huge gulf between the coach's brash image and personal style. But he still recommended to the Rev. John Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, on Sunday night

that Weis be let go with six years left on his contract. Weis finishes with a 35-27 record in five seasons, among the worst of any Fighting Irish coach.

"He will go on to have great success. He'll add some Super Bowl rings to the ones he already has as a successful coordinator in the NFL and we will miss him," Swarbrick said. "But for us it's time to move forward. It's time to move forward because it is critical to this program and to its place in the university and college football that we compete at the highest level. That we compete for national championships." Assistant head coach Rob Ianello will step in for Weis until a new coach is hired.

The Fighting Irish (6-6) are eligible to play in a bowl game, but Swarbrick has said he wants to hear from the players before deciding if Notre Dame will go to a minor postseason game.

Continued on Page B12

Serena Williams fined record \$82,500 for U.S. Open tirade

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

Serena Williams was fined a record \$82,500 for her tirade at a U.S. Open line judge and could be suspended from that tournament if she has another "major offense" at any Grand Slam in the next two years.

Grand Slam administrator Bill Babcock's ruling was released Monday, and he said Williams faces a "probationary period" at tennis' four major championships in 2010 and 2011. If she has another "major offense" at a Grand Slam tournament in that time, the fine would increase to \$175,000 and she would be barred from the following U.S. Open.

"But if she does not have another offense in the next two years, the suspension is lifted," Babcock said in a telephone interview from London.

He said Williams is handing over \$82,500 right now to the Grand Slam committee, already far more than the previous highest fine for a Grand Slam offense. In 1995,

Jeff Tarango stormed off the court at Wimbledon and accused the chair umpire of showing favoritism to certain players in exchange for their friendship. Tarango was fined a total of \$43,756, which was reduced to \$28,256 on appeal, and barred from Wimbledon the next year.

Williams lashed out at a lineswoman after a foot-fault call at the end of her semifinal loss to eventual champion Kim Clijsters at the U.S. Open in September. It was a profanity-laced, finger-pointing, racket-brandishing display in which Williams approached the official with what U.S. Open tournament director Jim Curley called at the time "a threatening manner."

"I am thankful that we now have closure on the incident and we can all move forward," Williams said in a statement released Monday by her publicist. "I am back in training in preparation for next season and I continue to be grateful for all of the support from my fans and the tennis community."



In this Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009 file photo Serena Williams, of the United States, argues with a line judge over a foot fault call during her match against Kim Clijsters, of Belgium, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. Grand Slam administrator Bill Babcock tells The Associated Press that Serena Williams has been fined a record \$82,500 for her tirade at this year's U.S. Open and could be suspended from that tournament if she has another "major offense" in the next two years.

Associated Press

She earned \$350,000 by reaching the U.S. Open singles semifinals, part of her more than \$6.5 million in prize money in 2009, a single-season record for women's tennis. Her career prize money tops \$28 million. □

Woods withdraws from own golf tournament



A banner showing a photo of Tiger Woods hangs at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Monday, Nov. 30, 2009. The Chevron World Challenge golf tournament, which benefits the Tiger Woods Foundation, will take place at Sherwood this week.

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) — Tiger Woods withdrew Monday from his own golf tournament, citing injuries from a car crash near his Florida home. He said he would not compete again until next year.

Woods said in a statement on his Web site that his injuries

prevented him from playing in the Chevron World Challenge. He was scheduled to hold a news conference Tuesday for the tournament, which he hosts annually for a small, invited field.

"I am extremely disappointed that I will not be at my tournament this week," Woods said. "I am certain it will be an outstanding event and I'm very sorry that I can't be there."

His decision to withdraw comes after a car crash left him with cuts and bruises when his SUV hit a fire hydrant and a tree early Friday outside his home in a gated Florida golf community. Woods was treated and released at a hospital after the accident, and has not been seen in public since.

By skipping the tournament, Woods will escape having to face TV cameras and a horde of media seeking more details about the smashup.

Woods released a statement Sunday saying the accident was his fault, but he did not address any of the questions still swirling around it. □

NFL Roundup

Perfect Colts win AFC South

HOUSTON (AP) — Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns as the Indianapolis Colts rallied from a 13-point halftime deficit Sunday to clinch the American Football Conference South with a 35-27 win over the Houston Texans.

It was their 20th straight regular-season victory in Indianapolis, leaving the Colts is one win short of the New England Patriots' NFL-record 21-game run from 2006-08. The Colts can tie the record if they beat Tennessee at home next weekend.

Manning threw two first-half interceptions, but had a pair of second-half TD passes, including a 4-yarder to Dallas Clark that gave the Colts a 21-20 lead with about nine minutes left.

The loss makes Houston's chances of earning its first playoff berth more dim after losing three straight.

Titans 20, Cardinals 17

At Nashville, Tennessee, Vince Young hit a leaping Kenny Britt for a 10-yard touchdown as time expired, and Tennessee rallied for its fifth straight victory.

Young won his ninth straight start and improved to 23-11 in his career by driving the Titans 99 yards in the final 2:37. He converted three fourth downs on the drive, two to Britt. He threw for a career-high 387 yards in outdueling Matt Leinart in their first meeting as professionals.

Ravens 20, Steelers 17, OT

At Baltimore, an interception by rookie Paul Kruger set up a 29-yard field goal by Billy Cundiff with 6:42 left in the extra session, giving Baltimore a victory.

Third-string quarterback Dennis Dixon started because Ben Roethlisberger was sidelined with a concussion and backup Charlie Batch had a broken left wrist. Dixon had thrown only one pass in two seasons before getting the nod against the Ravens.

Chargers 43, Chiefs 14

At San Diego, LaDainian Tomlinson scored two touchdowns and moved into 10th on the NFL's career

rushing list. Philip Rivers threw two touchdown passes to Antonio Gates as the Chargers improved to 8-3.

The Chiefs lost a week after stunning the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers in overtime.

Vikings 36, Bears 10

At Minneapolis, Brett Favre passed for a season-high 392 yards and three touchdowns, as the Vikings intercepted Jay Cutler twice.

Favre went 32 for 48 without a turnover and was 10 yards off his career best, throwing touchdowns to Visanthe Shiancoe, Chester Taylor and Percy Harvin, the unflappable rookie who had his best game yet.

49ers 20, Jaguars 3

At San Francisco, quarterback Alex Smith threw short touchdown passes to Frank Gore and Vernon Davis in the kind of mistake-free day San Francisco coach Mike Singletary has sought for weeks.

Smith threw for 232 yards with no interceptions and no sacks in his best game since taking over as starter in late October. Joe Nedney kicked field goals of 46 and 27 yards for San Francisco (5-6), which snapped the Jaguars' three-game winning streak and spoiled the Bay Area homecoming of Jacksonville

coach Jack Del Rio and running back Maurice Jones-Drew.

Bengals 16, Browns 7

At Cincinnati, newcomer Larry Johnson rushed for 107 yards in Cincinnati's conservative approach as the Bengals completed their first division sweep.

The Bengals rushed for 210 yards, with Johnson — signed less than two weeks ago as insurance — subbing for Cedric Benson, out for the second straight week with an injured hip.

Eagles 27, Redskins 24

At Philadelphia, David Akers kicked a 32-yard field goal with 1:48 remaining as Philadelphia rallied past Washington.

Akers made all four of his field goals, extending his streak to 16. Asante Samuel had two interceptions and McNabb threw for 260 yards and one TD.

Falcons 20, Buccaneers 17

At Atlanta, Chris Redman threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Roddy White with 23 seconds remaining as Atlanta pulled out a victory after losing offensive stars Matt Ryan and Michael Turner to injuries.

Connor Barth just missed on a 51-yard try with 2:30 left, giving the Falcons one more chance. Redman, who took over after Ryan injured



Indianapolis Colts fans celebrate after a Colts touchdown as Houston Texans fans sit nearby during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009 in Houston. The Colts won 35-27.

Associated Press

his right big toe on Atlanta's first series, calmly directed a 59-yard drive that may have saved the season.

Bills 31, Dolphins 14

At Orchard Park, New York, a 56-yard field goal by Rian Lindell and a 51-yard touchdown catch by Terrell Owens in the final minutes propelled Buffalo.

The win was the first for interim coach Perry Fewell, who replaced the fired Dick Jauron two games ago.

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Darrelle Revis got the

New York defense in the end zone for the first time this season.

In other games it was, Buffalo 31, Miami 14; N.Y. Jets 17, Carolina 6; Seattle 27, St. Louis 17; Atlanta 20, Tampa Bay 17; Indianapolis 35, Houston 27; Cincinnati 16, Cleveland 7; Philadelphia 27, Washington 24; San Diego 43, Kansas City 14; San Francisco 20, Jacksonville 3; Tennessee 20, Arizona 17; Minnesota 36, Chicago 10; and Baltimore 20, Pittsburgh 17, OT. □

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Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick talks with the media about the firing of coach Charlie Weis Monday Nov. 30, 2009. Notre Dame fired Weis on Monday after a string of disappointing seasons that was capped by an agonizing four-game losing streak. Swarbrick said he recommended to university president the Rev. John Jenkins on Sunday night that Weis be let go with six years left on his contract. Weis leaves his alma mater with a 35-27 record in five seasons, among the worst of any Notre Dame coach.

Associated Press

NOTREDAME

Continued from Page B10

Following a 6-2 start this season, Notre Dame began a winless November with the second upset by Navy in three years. Then came losses to Pittsburgh and to Connecticut in double overtime on senior day in South Bend. By the time the Irish lost their season-finale to Stanford on Saturday, it seemed inevitable Weis would be gone.

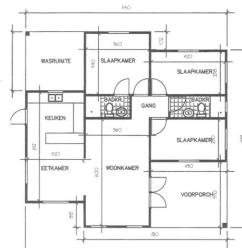
Speculation about possible replacements for Weis has been rampant for weeks. Among the top names mentioned, Florida's Urban Meyer and Oklahoma's Bob Stoops already have said they plan to stay where they are.

Speaking on a conference call Monday, Stoops said: "I'm going to be at Oklahoma next year, so I can't be at two places at once."

Cincinnati's Brian Kelly has also been mentioned, along with Stanford's Jim Harbaugh and TCU's Gary Patterson. A self-confident offensive coordinator with the NFL champion New England Patriots when he was hired, Weis raised Irish expectations with back-to-back appearances in BCS bowl games in his first two seasons.

Since then, though, Notre Dame has gone 16-21 — the most losses by the Irish in a three-year span.

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Weis' record is worse than his two predecessors, Tyrone Willingham and Bob Davie, who also were fired. Notre Dame is now looking to hire its fifth coach this decade. Weis received a new 10-year contract midway through his first season, shortly after a thriller against top-ranked USC that ended in a 34-31 Notre Dame loss.

Even though the Irish fell short, playing nearly even with Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush and the mighty Trojans had the Notre Dame faithful hopeful they had found a coach capable of returning the program to its past glories. The Fighting Irish have won eight AP national titles, more than any other school, but none since 1988.

Yet the USC loss turned out to be the highlight of Weis' tenure.

Because it began so promisingly, Weis' final three seasons in South Bend were especially painful for the legion of Fighting Irish supporters nationwide.

"There were a lot of expectations he didn't live up to. He admitted to that," said former Notre Dame wide receiver David Grimes, who played four seasons for Weis and was on campus working out Monday. "But it's sad to see."

With Brady Quinn, Jeff Samardzija and other key players gone in 2007, the Irish started 0-5 for the first time in school history.

They finished 3-9, leaving Weis one loss shy of matching Davie's school record of 16 losses in his first three seasons.

Most shocking, though, was the fact the Irish finished last in the NCAA in total offense just three years after Weis said at his introductory news conference that when it comes to X's and O's "we have the greatest advantage."

The past two seasons the Irish have collapsed in November. They got off to a 5-2 start before going 1-4 down the stretch a year ago, before ending this season with four losses, none by no more than a touchdown.

"I'm disappointed," former Notre Dame player Asaph Schwapp said. "It's definitely sad to see. I loved being coached by him."

Notre Dame fans who celebrated Weis' cockiness when he was winning grew tired of his Jersey attitude when the Irish started losing, with many calling him arrogant.

His biggest failure, however, was his team's inability to play good defense. The Irish never finished higher than 39th in the country in total defense and gave up big play after big play. Weis' teams lost six games by 26 points or more.

The now-former coach appeared to know his firing was imminent, saying a day after the loss to Connecticut on Nov. 21 that he would have a hard time arguing against his dismissal "because 6-5 is not good enough" — an echo of his words when he took the job.

Whoever replaces Weis will be charged with ending the longest title drought in school history. □

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Ex guerrillero Mujica es presidente electo de Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO (Reuters) - El ex guerrillero José Mujica ganó la presidencia de Uruguay con la promesa de continuar las políticas moderadas del actual Gobierno de la izquierda, que permitieron al país sortear la crisis económica mundial. Bajo una intensa lluvia, Mujica reiteró el domingo por la noche ante miles de eufóricos izquierdistas, que festejaron la victoria hasta entrada la madrugada del lunes, su compromiso de mantener las políticas establecidas por el socialista moderado Tabaré Vázquez, y admitió que seguramente cometerá errores.

Mujica, felicitado por varios Gobiernos de América Latina y Estados Unidos - que dijo espera profundizar los lazos con el país sudamericano - abandonó el lunes su granja en las afueras de Montevideo a última hora de la tarde para reunirse con Pedro Bordaberry, ex candidato a presidente y uno de los líderes del Partido

Colorado, de centroderecha.

Tras la reunión, Mujica solicitó a través de los medios un encuentro para esta semana con su rival del domingo, el ex mandatario Luis Alberto Lacalle del histórico Partido Nacional, también de centroderecha.

Además, el ex guerrillero pidió a sus seguidores respeto para quienes no votaron por la coalición de izquierdas Frente Amplio y prometió negociar con la oposición para que forme parte del Gobierno, propuesta que subrayó el lunes en su audición radial diaria.

“Ni vencedores ni vencidos”, clamó Mujica, de 74 años, luego de que Lacalle reconociera su derrota en la segunda vuelta electoral.

COMPROMISO DE INTEGRACION

Con el 100 por ciento de los circuitos de votación escrutados, Mujica obtuvo un 52,6 por ciento de los sufragios válidos, contra un 43,3 por

ciento de Lacalle, según datos oficiales divulgados el lunes por la Corte Electoral.

“Lo mejor es tener mucha oreja y escuchar en primer término a aquellos que no concuerdan con nosotros, porque en definitiva sus razones tienen, son una parte de la realidad (...) y esa parte es tremendamente importante”, dijo Mujica el lunes.

“Tontos seríamos si no empezáramos por reconocer ese hecho. De ahí el compromiso con todos, de una lucha que en puntos esenciales es la integración del país”, añadió el próximo mandatario.

Mujica, miembro de la guerrilla urbana Tupamaros a fines de los años 60 y principios de los 70, reconoció en su discurso la herencia del actual Gobierno y agradeció a su compañero en la vicepresidencia, Danilo Astori, ex ministro y artífice de la política económica del Vázquez.

Uruguay evitó caer en recesión



El presidente de Uruguay, Tabaré Vázquez (der), posa con el presidente electo José Mujica en Montevideo, 29 nov 2009. El ex guerrillero José Mujica ganó la presidencia de Uruguay con la promesa de continuar las políticas moderadas del actual Gobierno de la izquierda, que permitieron al país sortear la crisis económica mundial. REUTERS/Pablo La Rosa (IMAGENES DEL DIA)

por la crisis financiera global y se proyecta que su Producto Interno Bruto (PIB) se expandirá un 1,2 por ciento en el 2009, en el séptimo año consecutivo de crecimiento. El año pasado, la desocupación cayó al nivel más bajo desde la

década de 1980, según datos oficiales.

“La gente lo que hizo no fue elegir a Mujica o rechazar a Lacalle, lo que hizo fue devolverle la confianza al Frente Amplio”, dijo el lunes el politólogo Adolfo Garcé. □

Presidente electo de Honduras, Porfirio Lobo, dice: “Zelaya ya es historia”

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - El ganador de las polémicas elecciones en Honduras, el opositor Porfirio Lobo, dijo el lunes que el derrocado mandatario Manuel Zelaya, que desde hace meses reclama su retorno al poder refugiado en la embajada de Brasil, ya es parte del pasado. Lobo, del conservador Partido Nacional, obtuvo una amplia victoria en los comicios del domingo, vistos como ilegítimos por una mayoría de países latinoamericanos pero aprobados por Estados Unidos, que los consideró una solución a la crisis derivada del golpe de Estado contra Zelaya, ocurrido en junio.

“Yo estoy aquí alegre, viendo hacia al futuro y ustedes aquí (insistiendo con) ‘Zelaya’. Ya Zelaya es historia, ya es parte del pasado”,

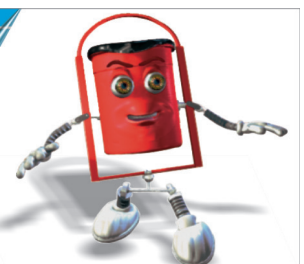
sostuvo a un grupo de periodistas que le interrogaban sobre qué acciones piensa tomar para destrabar la situación del mandatario depuesto.

Zelaya fue derrocado el 28 de junio por militares que lo sacaron de su casa y se lo llevaron a Costa Rica el mismo día en que planeaba realizar una consulta popular que abriera paso a la reelección presidencial, algo que irritó a sus opositores y partidarios que veían en eso la influencia de Hugo Chávez.

Según Lobo, Zelaya y el presidente de facto, Roberto Micheletti, firmaron un acuerdo para que fuera el Congreso quien decidiera si devolverle el poder o no, por lo cual él no tiene intenciones de meterse en el asunto, al menos por ahora. □



El ganador de las elecciones en Honduras, el opositor Porfirio Lobo, durante una conversación con los medios de prensa en su hogar en Tegucigalpa, nov 30 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido



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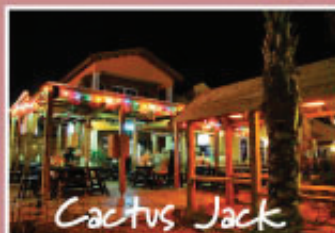


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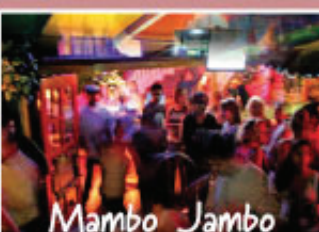
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